

to join me in congratulating Mt. Diablo Audubon Society as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1953, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS) has an impressive record of environmental achievements in Contra Costa County, including the following:

Involved extensively in the protection and recovery of McNabney Marsh in Martinez. Formerly Shell Marsh, this area was saved as part of a settlement over an oil spill years ago. It is named after Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's well-known and respected former vice-president of conservation, the late Al McNabney.

Worked with the East Bay Regional Park District on the establishment and development of Waterbird Park in Martinez.

Led fifty-four yearly field trips for MDAS members and the public.

Supported the Muir Heritage Land Trust which has initiated a bold plan to link together many of our open space areas.

Partnered with a local flood control district to restore and protect a 22-acre saline marsh in Antioch, the Julia Cox Freeman Marsh.

Provided Audubon Adventures to over 90 classrooms (3,000 students) throughout Contra Costa County. Since 1984 Audubon Adventures has provided basic, scientifically-accurate facts about birds and wildlife and their habitats.

Partnered with Native Bird Connections and Wild Birds Unlimited to develop a life science course of study for freshman and sophomore high school students. Currently two high schools are participating in this program.

Supported the expansion of the California Bluebird Recovery Program and the placement of hundreds of bluebird houses in California.

Participated in many events and festivals in Contra Costa County and northern California to help educate the public about birds and the habitat they require.

Initiated the Contra Costa County Breeding Bird Atlas. This Atlas (a major five-year project underwritten by MDAS) will be an important tool in the battle to preserve open space and breeding habitats for birds.

Conducted slides shows and nature presentations to many schools and other groups throughout Contra Costa County.

Closely involved in the development of the Delta Science Center.

Participated in fifty Christmas Bird Counts.

I know I speak for all Members of Congress when I congratulate Mt. Diablo Audubon Society on its 50th anniversary and wish its members many more years of environmental stewardship.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PATSY T. MINK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2001

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, during my days in grade school, the full participation of women in school athletics was not only discouraged, but also frowned upon. That all

changed in 1972 when one woman challenged the system, changed the rules and inspired and empowered a new generation of young women. That woman is PATSY MINK.

I offer my deepest condolences to PATSY MINK's family. I know that they will miss her, as will all of us in Congress who were fortunate enough to know her, not only as a colleague, but also as a leader, mentor and friend.

PATSY MINK was a pioneer—she opened so many doors for a generation of women and for our daughters. She was the driving force behind Title IX, which mandated gender equality in education.

Without this landmark piece of legislation, our daughters, granddaughters, nieces and young women everywhere would not have the opportunity to excel and display their talents in the classrooms and the playing fields across this nation.

Without PATSY's unwavering efforts to implement this law, Title IX would have been the great idea that never came to be.

I am honored to have served with Congresswoman MINK on the House Education and the Workforce Committee and feel privileged to have worked closely with her on the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. I know firsthand her intense drive, dedication and devotion to her home State and her constituency.

As the first Asian woman elected to Congress, she displayed unparalleled determination in fighting for human rights, civil rights and the rights of minority groups everywhere. We must now be vigilant and continue the crucial work that Congresswoman MINK undertook on behalf of people everywhere who felt they had no voice.

Women, people of color and individuals throughout this nation owe a debt of gratitude to PATSY MINK and her trailblazing efforts. Her legacy of equality and integrity will live on not only in the halls of Congress, but on the playing fields and in the classrooms across this nation.

HONORING MARILYN A. NGUYEN

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marilyn A. Nguyen of Bourbonnais, Illinois. Marilyn was one of over 85,000 secondary school students who participated in a contest through the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary (VFW). Each year the VFW conducts a Voice of Democracy audio/essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The contest theme was "Reaching Out to America's Future". Marilyn A. Nguyen was chosen as the 2002 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting winner this year. Following is Marilyn's winning script.

The harmony of an industrious city is disrupted by a deafeningly explosive crash. There is confusion. There are wailing sirens. In another city, the same confusion spreads like wildfire. Lives are forever changed as events unfold and buildings collapse. The horror is almost too much to bear. On September 11th, 2001, the gruesome hand of ter-

rorism attempted to reach out and grasp America's future. Fortunately, its grip was too slippery to conquer the heart and soul that is the United States of America.

Over two centuries ago the founding fathers of this country left England envisioning better lives for themselves and their posterity. They reached out mentally and physically to find America's future full of promise and patriotism. As this country continues to blossom and mature we must accept the task of reaching out to America's future no matter the cost or hardship.

America is a union for all nationalities. It reaches out to immigrants of all lands. My parents were among these immigrants. As their daughter I especially feel a unique bond to America. I feel that it is my duty to reach out to America's future with my own actions.

But, what does it mean to reach out to America's future? Already, it may seem to some that our future is uncertain because of the terrorist attacks. But, these tragedies only remind us that the time to reach out to America's future is now. We need to rise to the challenge as we have never done before to stand firm as a nation and as human beings to reach forward into the future.

The task at hand is not an easy one. Reaching out to America's future must begin with the individual who believes that America's future is not an abstract idea: it is comprised of neighbors, friends, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters and especially individuals. America's future depends on what happens today in the lives of ordinary Americans living ordinary lives. It calls for the erasure of color, race and religion. It begins when one person extends respect and acceptance to another person regardless of their background.

Reaching out to America's future as a teenager is not much different from extending a hand as an adult. As a teen, perhaps it may be a difficult step but one which lays the foundations for adulthood. At a time when personal opinions are being formed, it can be easy to declare "it's not my job" to reach out but that is where we are wrong. I am the future of America. It starts with me. I am the voice of influence over my friends and the younger members of my community. Using that influence to promote understanding and cooperation among my peers, family, and community are what I, as a teen individual, can do to reach out to America's future.

It is important to begin with our everyday routines because this is where the impact will be most felt. I must encourage others to talk with friends and family about what it means to be a contribution to America's future. Teach younger children in middle school, neighbors, or even peers in high school that it is wrong to hate and discriminate. I have a responsibility to open my mind to the differences that make us unique and vital components of the future instead of searching for ways to divide. The example I put forth into the world should be one of love and acceptance.

The teenager's job in reaching out to America's future lies in the education of himself and his surroundings. His call to help build America's future is still strong. This nation has no future without the work of those who believe in its potential for goodness.

Reaching out to America's future can seem like a far away goal. But, in reality, the future is at our fingertips. We as people of this majestic empire must adopt the task set before us over two hundred years ago. Reaching out to the future begins with the person who hears these words. It is he who must first take action. The perfect example of reaching out to America's future is the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. She is the